

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact: Pat Shields, Area Management Biologist;	Aaron Dupuis, Asst. Area Management Biologist
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B	Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: (907) 262-9368	Fax: (907) 262-4709
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 36
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-34-12

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 36 opens set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Sunday, August 12, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Drift gillnetting will be opened in the Kenai and East Foreland Sections on Sunday, August 12, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

During this fishing period, set and drift gillnets may not have a mesh size greater than four and three-quarters inches. Additionally, set and drift gillnets may not be operated within 600 feet of the shoreline. The term shoreline is defined as the point where the water meets the shore at any stage of the tide.

According to 5AAC 21.354 *Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Management Plan*, from August 11 through August 15, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a commercial pink salmon fishery in an even-numbered year for up to two 12-hour fishing periods if sockeye salmon escapement goals are being met in the Kenai River and Kasilof River and the coho salmon run strength is sufficient to withstand additional harvest. The first period will be fished if, during the regular fishing periods from August 6 through August 10, the daily harvest of pink salmon meets or exceeds 50,000 fish or the cumulative harvest is 100,000 or more pink salmon.

A pink salmon commercial fishery is warranted because 1) the pink salmon harvest from the regular fishing period on August 9 exceeded 50,000 fish; 2) sockeye salmon goals have been met in the Kenai and Kasilof rivers; and 3) coho salmon run strength is sufficient to withstand additional harvest. The pink salmon harvest from the drift and east side set gillnet fisheries was approximately 60,000 fish on August 9; cumulative sockeye salmon passage through August 9 was approximately 1,506,000 in the Kenai River and 369,000 in the Kasilof River; and the average east side set gillnet coho salmon harvest from the August 6 and 9 fishing periods averaged 2,298 fish per period with less than average effort. This is greater than the average coho salmon harvest of 1,820 fish per regular fishing period in August during the previous 10 years (2002–2011).